

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
Complaint Report

Complaint C-15-00004
Number:

Date 09/17/2014

Received:

Received By: K. Kajiya-Mills

Assigned To: J. Magro

Date of Incident:

Facility: WALLACE STORAGE

SRN/ID: U331413113

Location: 1099 E. GRAND RIVER

County: INGHAM

City: WILLIAMSTON

Zip 48895
Code:

Facility
Description:

Complainant:

Phone ()--
Number:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Source of E-Mail
Complaint:

PEAS No:

Suspected Health Effects: No

Nature of ☐ Odor ☐ Opacity ☐ Fallout ☐ Fugitive ☐ Open Burning ☒ Other
Complaint: Dust

Complaint Angry former tenant claims he removed asbestos from a debris pile onsite
Comments:

Resolution Status

Date 09/24/2014 Resolution Type: On-Site
Resolved:

Activity
No:

AQD No suspect asbestos material was found on the site.
Comments:

Name: _____ Date: _____ Supervisor: _____

Page 1 of 1

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Complaint Investigation

U33141311327513

FACILITY: Wallace Storage	SRN / ID: U331413113
LOCATION: 1099 E. Grand River, Williamston	DISTRICT: Lansing
CITY: Williamston	COUNTY: INGHAM
CONTACT:	ACTIVITY DATE: 09/24/2014
STAFF: Jessica Magro	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Unknown
SOURCE CLASS:	
SUBJECT: Investigated complaint regarding asbestos buried on the Wallace Storage property. I was granted permission to inspect the grounds and no suspect asbestos material was observed.	
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:	

I was met by [REDACTED]. According to [REDACTED] the complainant [REDACTED] applied for a permit to use the property for a used car lot. As a condition of the permit he was required to remove an old debris pile on the property. The debris pile consisted of rubbish from years prior that the (recently deceased) owner of the property dumped after he cleaned out one of his rental properties. According to [REDACTED] removed the debris and burned it in his yard. Later, after his permit was denied, he claimed that the pile he removed had asbestos in it and he is now trying to charge the property for his hauling fees. I asked [REDACTED] if she or anyone else knew if there was any asbestos in the pile at any time. [REDACTED] said that until [REDACTED] made his claim, no one knew anything about asbestos or thought that there was any onsite. Michelle showed me where the debris pile had been and together we looked through the remaining debris onsite. No suspect material was observed.

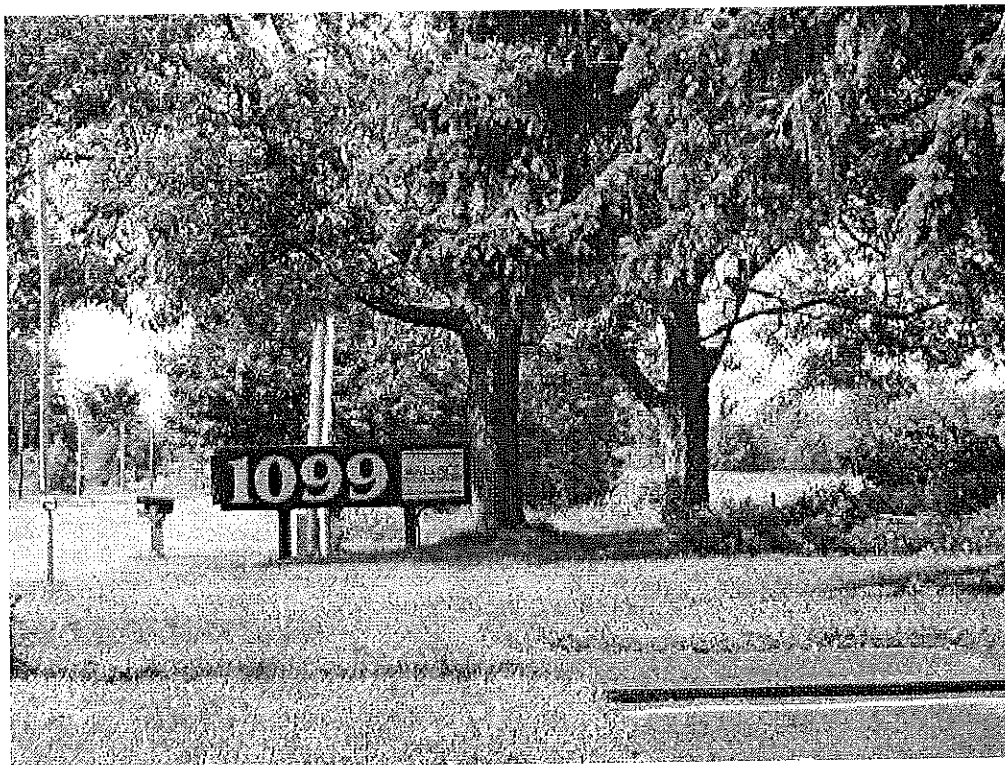


Image 1(Reference Photo) : Reference photo



Image 2(Debris pile area) : Debris pile area- grass has grown over area



Image 3(Debris) : Closer view of debris found on ground- no suspect asbestos material observed

NAME _____

DATE _____

SUPERVISOR _____

9/24/14

Complaint

Magro, Jessica (DEQ)

From: Kajiya-Mills, Karen (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 3:38 PM
To: Magro, Jessica (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Williamstown Township
Attachments: Cortis SUP stop action request.pdf

Jessica, please follow-up. Thanks, Karen

From: Sakowski, Kim (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 3:10 PM
To: Kajiya-Mills, Karen (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Williamstown Township

Hi Karen.

I received this complaint via email. I think this is more for you. Let me know if its not. Thanks!

From: Ernie Gaffner [<mailto:gaffnere@williamstowntownship.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2014 4:20 PM
To: Sakowski, Kim (DEQ)
Subject: Williamstown Township

Hi Kim,

Apparently we have had emails before because when I started to enter your address your name filled right in on my computer.

The address of 1099 E. Grand River Road, west of Williamston between Zimmer Road and Thatcher Road, on the north side, owned and operated by Wallace Storage has a potential DEQ situation.

Richard Cortis of 3219 Zimmer Road in Williamston had requested had requested a Special Use Permit for the 1099 address so he could sell used cars. The Township provided a list of items to be bring the property into compliance with Township Zoning, as a contingency for approval of his permit. As you can see by the attached, things did not work out for Mr. Cortis but there remains a concern about the material discovered on the property. The attached also includes a report from FiberTech services in Holt.

The Township Board does not know if there is a real problem or not but thought it best to at least pass the information on to your office.

If you need any additinal information from this office, please don't hesitate to contact me. Since our office is only open 3 days a week, my cell phone number is [REDACTED] or you can always contact me by email.


--

Thank You.

Ernie

Ernie Gaffner, clerk
Williamstown Township

4990 N. Zimmer Road
Williamston, MI 48895


gaffnere@williamstowntownship.com

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2014

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP

September 3, 2014

To: Williamstown Township

From: [REDACTED] & Richard Cortis

Reference: Confirmation of Termination of Special Use Permit

[REDACTED] had every intention of fulfilling all of the requirements and conditions set forth by the Township, it was ultimately [REDACTED] that made the final move introducing item #43 to keep our mouths shut about the material we found on site on the new lease contract that forced us into cancelling the print progress with KEBS. [REDACTED] cancelled our lease of 5 years with an automatic 5 year renewal so long as we are good tenants and introduced a new contract of one year, we eat all of our clean-up costs keep our mouths shut about what we found and renegotiate the contract with her after the first year is up. I had heard she was looking for a business opportunity for her two sons and wanted to give us the boot so she could move them in to start their own used car business.

After discovering all of these faults with the premises and forced into cleaning up all of these toxins we have decided to cancel everything, this includes the Special Use Permit and also Variance. We do not want our kids exposed to anymore of these airborne material or any other toxins that may have been buried years ago contaminating the well water.

The Google Earth prints I left with you show the drain that used to run North to the Red Cedar River in earlier years from the property in question. You will also note a large very white pile existed similar to what I found just to the Southwest of the large pile we removed in the Northeast corner on the October 3, 2011 satellite photo. Please take note that [REDACTED] was very sick for two years and died November 28, 2011. This pile that is visible on the October 3, 2011 satellite photo was removed prior to the next satellite photo taken on Google Earth, you can see a pattern that indicates scrape marks on the ground drawing the pile to its center point of mass. This is consistent with an excavator or backhoe using its hydraulic arm to bring the material to a hole for burial.

The last pile noted by Supervisor Martin on August 7th during our final walk on the berm was in fact buried in the ground and had a large pile of dirt to the South of the hole covered by brush and hardwood pallets. Much of this material is still deep in the ground at this location it was unknown as to how deep this hole is as Go-Mini's have always been parked over the top of its location since the day we started working there and remain in that same place today. Those are the same Mini's ordered to stay in place by the court but have no record of existence on file.

Because of the time crunch we were operating under and my working on the print at night, we had no time to stop and have the material analyzed and/or dig up the rest of this material. I simply took the dirt pile left on the surface to the South of the hole and raked it back over the material to restore the contour of the berm to match the existing angle so I could spread grass seed and straw.

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2014

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP

It was not until Sunday that I decided to bring a chunk home and bake it in the fire on the white hot coals for a week to see what happens. One week later I extinguished the fire with a garden hose, removed the perfectly good chunk that I showed you in person. [REDACTED] and manager/caretaker was notified of the material in her dumpster on every occasion via text messaging to her phone along with an email to her attorney on the final dump in the dumpster. They had every opportunity to analyze this material but choose not to.

I went to the Ingham County Health Department and met with [REDACTED] to report this incident, he told me to report it to the local governing authority, I asked him to take the sample and get it analyzed and he would not, he sent the sample home with me. I came to your location and showed it to you immediately after departing the Health Department and asked you to take it and you would not. I have contacted him several times since the sample analysis was sent in for testing and he appears to be avoiding me.

I finally located a testing facility in Holt, Michigan that is certified to test for asbestos, attached are the results that we paid to have tested. This material was found in the very first pile we removed in the Northeast corner, along the entire east fence line and also in the last junk pile removed noted by Supervisor Martin.

Please cancel and terminate the SUP and Variance, we were used in the worst possible way and wasted our entire summer as a family working in a toxic waste dump. We did not wear protective gear or respirators as would have been appropriate for this type of exposure especially for young minor children. It was very costly and every effort will be made to recoup these costs from [REDACTED]. It would be proper to request a refund of the Special Use Permit of \$2500.00 and the Variance Permit of \$500.00 for being forced to work in a hostile work environment rather than accept a bond as I had previously requested.

Respectfully submitted,
[REDACTED] Richard Cortis

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2014
WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP

Comments

Bulk samples are analyzed using the USEPA Test Method EPA/600/R-93/116. The constituent percent reported represents an estimate of the area percent of the component. The test report relates only to items tested. This report is not intended to be used as a product endorsement by NVLAP or any agency of the U.S. Government. Fine fibers like those in floor tile may not be discernible by this method. This report shall not be reproduced, except in full, without the written approval of the laboratory. Individual sample layers are homogeneous, unless otherwise noted. Test items were received in acceptable condition. Revision 4.0 dated 12/8/2010.

If no asbestos was/were detected in the sample/samples the acronym NAD (no asbestos detected) will appear in the Asbestos Type column of the report.

Approved Signatory: _____

Date: 08/29/14

BULK SAMPLE ANALYTICAL REPORT

35666-1

NVLAP Accreditation #101510-0

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2014

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP

Client Name: [REDACTED]
Project Name: [REDACTED]
Summary: 1 Submitted Bulk Sample, 1 Sample Layer Analyzed.

Date Sampled: 8/28/2014
Date Submitted: 8/28/2014
Date Analyzed: 8/29/2014

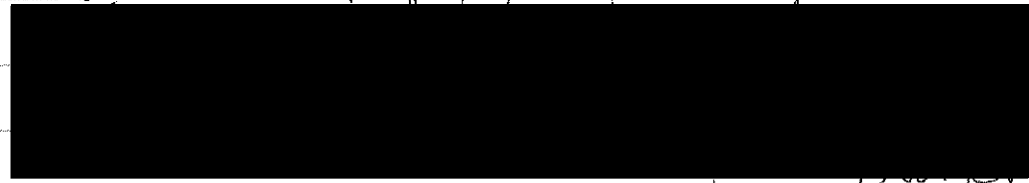
Client P.O. #: N/A
C.O.C. #: 135422

Fibertec Sample No.	Client I.D. No.	Description / Location	Asbestos Type	Non-Asbestos Containing Portion	Analyst
1	1	Tan spongy material, debris pile.	Chrysotile 6%	Non-fibrous material 74% Fibrous glass 20%	JKC

9/21/14

Wallace employee

Manager



2 piles of rubbish / rental prop.

[redacted] had a business
township had to remove the
piles

1 pile
where mints are
stored.
(flooding mats)
straw
wood

[redacted] burned
the piles
@ his own
home
+ moved
them